

## **Joppa/Joppatowne Community Advisory Board**

Meeting Number 4 (10-15)

October 5, 2015

Joppa/Joppatowne Community Advisory Board meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. Meetings are held at the Harford County Sheriff's Office Southern Precinct, 1305 Pulaski Highway, Edgewood, MD 21040.

Meeting Number 4 was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairperson Paula Mullis, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Special greetings were extended to community members and guests. Local Advisory Board members present were Paula Mullis, Gloria Moon, Doris G. Carey, Reno M. Eitel, Fran Salbeck, Dion F. Guthrie, Ron Sollod, and James B. Lyons III. Absent was CAB member Pastor Reeves. Local participants welcomed at the Community Advisory Board (CAB) were Andrew F. Tress, Citizen Affairs Specialist; Donna J. Blasdell, Legislative Aide to Councilman Mike Perrone, Jr; Sue Sapp from the Council President Richard C. Slutzky; Bonnie Johnsen of BGE and Captain Donald Gividen, Commander of the Southern Precinct.

### **Sheriff's Office / Community Policing**

Capt. Don Gividen reported that not a whole lot is going on in the Sector at this time. A heroin update had 121 non fatal overdoses and 22 fatal overdoses. There were 11 overdoses in the Joppa area. Joppa is part of Sector 10 and 40. In the last 28 days, there have been seven robberies. A lot of burglaries have been seen in vacant homes. There have been break-ins and some have been found sleeping in the homes. The overall picture for crime is that the numbers are holding true to the numbers last year. There seems to be a decline in crime during the colder months. Thefts and arson are down. Capt. Gividen is working on the arrest report for the November meeting. He answered questions of community members and was thanked for his participation.

### **Presentation – Bonnie L. Johansen, BGE**

Bonnie L. Johansen, External Affairs Manager of Governmental Affairs – email [bonnie.l.johansen@bge.com](mailto:bonnie.l.johansen@bge.com), telephone 410-269-5282, wants everyone to be aware of large projects that are coming to the area next year. There will be a large substation near Joppatowne High School. Services to the area are getting better and better each year. BGE is making sure that the areas where people live are being segmented so that all customer services are not out at the same time. Ms. Johansen

is making customers aware of what is happening with the substation and would like their feedback. She said that a lot of tree planting is being done in the area so that it will not be an eyesore. She also suggested that customers should think about taking advantage of energy saving programs for next summer and get bill credit. As part of the program BGE will pick up old working appliances and the customer will receive a check.

Chairperson Paula Mullis suggested that community members give some thought to what is happening in our communities, such as the upkeep of our parks, the sale of the Marina, vacant houses, etc. She would like for all to share suggestions about improvement needed in the community with the county council. Andrew Tress said the office of Economic Development is a great resource and plans for office members to do a presentation for the CAB in November. Some of the information can be shared on [facebook.com/joppatownemaryland](https://facebook.com/joppatownemaryland), managed by Preacher Adam Shellenbarger.

#### **Donna Blasdell, Legislative Aide to Councilman Perrone.**

Donna shared activities in which councilman Perrone participated in the last *Harford Next Month*. She shared that a Master Plan for the next generation was kicked off with a public forum at Harford Community College in April. It was also shared that the councilman had been in contact with developers such as Clark Turner who might have an interest in this area of Joppa/Joppatowne. Permits have been pulled to replace the Joppatowne Pizza Hut with a Dunkin Donuts/Baskin Robbins establishment. It is not know at this time if Anderson Hardware has plans to rebuild.

Bill Temmink, a community advocate shared recent pictures of the storm water damage caused by upstream runoff. He stated he had good news and bad news. It seems as though the county is not interested in putting in sediment ponds, because there is not interest in keeping ponds clean. New junk is still running into Foster Branch. Temmink suggested that community members take pictures of pond sediment and sludge and send them to DEQ Riverkeeper. If the community wants clean water restored, it basically has to start throwing some water. Waterways need to be dredged. Homeowners don't want to pay for waterfront property loaded with sludge.

#### **Members Community Updates from CAB as well as Other Community Participants**

Gloria Moon shared that the McComas School, an historic Freedmen's school was about to be put up for sale, due to unpaid taxes. However, Jim Thornton, a trustee of Hosanna School, another

Freedmen's school, got the Hosanna board to pay the taxes for McComas. The trustees of Hosanna School hope to purchase the historic school.

Doris Carey mentioned some Harford County facts presented at a recent Harford County Connect 2015 workshop. Dion Guthrie said attendance at Harford County schools is down by about 3,000 students. The Rumsey Island annual crab feast was a great success.

Paula Mullis encouraged those in attendance at the CAB meeting to bring others to the meeting and also share the agenda with them. Ron Sollod and James B. Lyons III, members of the Joppa-Magnolia Volunteer Fire Company, shared information on fire prevention. They stressed the importance of having fire alarms on each floor of the home. They shared information on the number of ambulance calls and fire runs during the last month. Fran Salbeck presented information from a community member which highlighted many concerns in neighborhoods. Sue Sapp passed out the Schedule of Legislative Sessions for the Harford County Council, highlighting bills that were introduced by Council President Slutzky at the request of the County Executive.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Doris G. Carey, Secretary